

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03231 262300Z

66

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

INRE-00 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 /047 W

----- 065657

O P 261852Z APR 75 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8546

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 3231

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: NINTH MEETING OF SUBGROUP ON
SOFA

REF: ATHENS 3160

1. IN MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 25, GREEK SIDE BEGAN
WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION OF APPENDIX II TO 1953 MFA, WHICH IN
THEIR VIEW WOULD BE REPLACED (A) BY THE ANNEX TO THE
PROPOSED GREEK DRAFT LISTING FACILITIES AND (B) BY THE
TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING EACH FACILITY IN WHICH
AUTHORIZED UNITS, FUNCTIONS, PERSONNEL STRENGTH, ETC. WOULD
BE SET FORTH. TURNING TO AGREEMENT OF OCTOBER 8, 1954
WHICH THEY HAD HASTILY REVIEWED, GREEK SIDE CHARACTERIZED IT
AS A RATHER SATISFACTORY TEXT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 03231 262300Z

USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. THEY FORESAW GENERAL PRINCIPLES

RE SECURITY MATTERS BEING COVERED EITHER IN THE BASIC AGREEMENT OR IN AN ANNEX, BUT FELT THAT NOT ONLY SECURITY MATTERS BUT COOPERATION SHOULD BE COVERED IN SAME CONTEXT. ECONOMIDES WAS ATTRACTED BY THE TERM HELLENIZATION" AS A RUBRIC FOR THE PROCESS THEY WISH APPLIED TO US FACILITIES.

2. SPECIFIC GREEK COMMENTS ON TEXT OF OCTOBER 8, 1954 AGREEMENT INCLUDED: (A) PARA 19 (F) WHICH WAS "VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND," AND US SIDE AGREED THIS PROVISION WAS UNNECESSARY AND INAPPROPRIATE; (B) PARA 20 (B) WAS INCONSISTENT WITH "RECENT PRACTICE OF GREEK ARMED FORCES" TO HAVE GREEK FLAG DISPLAYED WITH ANY FOREIGN FLAG, EVEN AT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, AND US SIDE NOTED THIS WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM; (C) PARA 20 (C) WOULD PROBABLY NEED LISTING OF FURTHER DUTIES FOR A GREEK COMMANDER, BUT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THESE FURTHER DUTIES WOULD POSE PROBLEM FOR US SIDE, AND WORD "MINIMUM" SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO GREEK PRESENCE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN SUB PARA 2, NEW LANGUAGE SHOULD INCLUDE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING APPLICATION OF GENERAL AGREEMENT AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT RE SPECIFIC FACILITY; IN SUB PARA 3 PROVISION FOR HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE WAS UNNECESSARY; RE SUBPARA 4, THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF ACCESS FOR BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE INCLUDED, ALTHOUGH LANGUAGE COULD BE RETAINED INDICATING THAT RESTRICTED AREAS TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED MIGHT BE DESIGNATED IN TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS. GREEKS UNDERTOOK TO EXAMINE OCTOBER 8, 1954 AGREEMENT IN DETAIL FOR ITS FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. THE US SIDE STATED THAT, IN ITS VIEW, THE TASK WAS TO BREATHE LIFE INTO AN AGREEMENT WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN, AND THE GREEK SIDE CONCURRED IN THIS ASSESSMENT.

3. RETURNING TO 1953 MFA, APP I FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE REVIEW OF NON-SOFA RELATED PROVISIONS, GREEKS NOTED THAT THEY HAD COVERED SUCH PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT. THEY FELT GREEK DRAFT, ART. 4 COVERED APP I, ART. III, WHICH IT WAS INTENDED TO SUPPLANT. GREEKS NOTED THAT APP. I, ART. III CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT ALL OF GREECE WAS A US FACILITY AND THAT AUTHORIZATION BY GOG FOR US ACTIVITIES EXTENDED BEYOND AGREED FACILITIES. THEIR DRAFT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ATHENS 03231 262300Z

CORRECTED THIS IMPRESSION AND WOULD LINK AUTHORIZATIONS DIRECTLY TO FACILITIES, THEREBY AVOIDING IMPRESSION OF GENERAL FREEDOM FOR WHATEVER US WISHED TO DO. US SIDE IN ATTEMPTING TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING OF GREEK INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD ELICITED EXPLANATION THAT US USE OF GREEK AIRFIELDS WOULD FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES: (A) FLIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH NATO EXERCISES, USUALLY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, FOR WHICH GREEK AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE

CONSTITUTED BLANKET APPROVAL; (B) FLIGHTS TO OR IN SUPPORT OF US FACILITIES WHICH WOULD BE SPECIFIED IN ANNEX TO UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, FOR WHICH ONLY ICAO FLIGHT PLAN WOULD BE REQUIRED; AND (C) ALL OTHER FLIGHTS, FOR WHICH DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED. GREEKS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE QUITE FLEXIBLE IN DEFINING US NEEDS WHEN TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS DRAFTED, BUT PRINCIPLE OF LIMITATION OF FLIGHTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO THOSE DIRECTLY RELATED TO FACILITIES WOULD BE APPLIED.

4. US SIDE HIGHLIGHTED POSSIBLE PROBLEM OF WHAT REGIME WOULD BE IN EFFECT AFTER NEGOTIATION ON AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, WHATEVER FORM IT MIGHT TAKE, AND BEFORE COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS. GREEKS REITERATED THAT THEY WOULD WISH A TIME LIMIT AFTER NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED FOR COMPLETION OF TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS, BUT WOULD BE ACCOMMODATING ON AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. US SIDE NOTED THAT APP. I, ART. II ALREADY RESTRICTED AUTHORIZATIONS AND FORESAW NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN PHRASE "FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS AGREEMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE AGREED...", AND ADDED THAT US HAD COMPLIED WITH THIS PROVISION IN INTERVENING 22 YEARS. ECONOMIDES COMMENTED THAT HE ALSO DID NOT HAVE AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS THE GREEK DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, BUT ANTICIPATED BEING ON THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD ADDRESS DRAFT IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS.

5. REGARDING APP. I, ART. II, PARA 3, GREEK SIDE WISHED SPECIFICATION OF MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, BUT IF US INSISTED ON LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO PARA 3 IN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT GREEKS WOULD WISH SOMETHING LIKE "...IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF EACH INSTALLATION, AS PROVIDED IN THE GOVERNING TECHNICAL AGREEMENT." GREEKS THOUGHT PARA 4 COVERED BY NATO SOFA AND UNNECESSARY EXCEPT FOR CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 ATHENS 03231 262300Z

CONCERNING WHICH GREEKS HAD NOT FORMULATED A POSITION. GREEKS SAW POSSIBLE UTILITY OF SUCH A PROVISION IF LANGUAGE ADDED SUCH "...AS PROVIDED IN TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR FACILITY CONCERNED," SINCE TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS WOULD SPECIFY PERSONNEL CEILINGS.

6. GREEKS REGARDED APP. I, ART. IV, PARA I AS OF NO FURTHER USE, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN PAST, AND FELT PARA 2 ESSENTIALLY TO BE COVERED IN TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS. US SIDE NOTED THAT SURVEY OPERATIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY IN GREEK WATERS WITH COOPERATION OF GOG, SUGGESTING CONTINUED UTILITY OF PROVISION, BUT AGREED THAT TECHNICAL AGREEMENT PROBABLY BEST PLACE FOR IT.

7. GREEKS BELIEVED APP. I, ART V ALSO WAS NO LONGER OF

VALUE, AND ART VI, PARA 1 NO LONGER HAD ANY "RAISON D' ETRE" IN THAT THE GREEK DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT COVERED ONLY EXISTING FACILITIES, AND NEW FACILITIES, IF ANY, WOULD EQUIRE A NEW TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT. ART. VI, PARA 2 WAS COVERED BY ART. 3 OF THE GREEK DRAFT, WHICH GREEKS ADMITTED WAS NOT AS COMPLETE AS IT SHOULD BE SINCE THEY HAD COME TO REALIZE THAT ADDITIONAL GENERAL PRINCIPLES SHLD BE INCLUDED IN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, AND GREEKS EXPRESSED SAME VIEW RE ART VI, PARA 3. THRUST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR EQUIVALENT RATES FOR US AND GREEK FORCES, IN PARA 4, SEEMED UNOBJECTIONABLE TO GREEKS.

8. GREEKS NOTED THAT APP. I, ART VII COVERED IN ART. 5 OF GREEK DRAFT, WHICH WAS THEIR POSITION "AT THIS STATE." US SIDE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CURRENT REGIME WOULD APPLY TO ANY FACILITIES US MIGHT VACATE AS RESULT OF CURRENT DISCUSSIONS (E.G. OTHER THAN HOMEPORTING FACILITIES), NOTABLY THOSE AT HELLENIKON WHERE FIXED FACILITIES MIGHT BE TURNED OVER AND REMOVABLE PROPERTY TAKEN OUT. US SIDE NOTED ABSENCE OF RESIDUAL VALUE CLAUSE IN ART. 5 OF THE GREEK DRAFT AND STATED US INTENTION TO INCLUDE SUCH A PROVISION IN ANY COUNTER-PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT BE MADE. GREEKS FELT POSSIBLE US CLAIM FOR INDEMNIFICATION FOR HELLENIKON FACILITIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT FACILITY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 ATHENS 03231 262300Z

9. IN FINAL REMARKS, US SIDE NOTED THAT AREAS OF DIFFERENCE WERE OFTEN MORE APPARENT THAN REAL, EXCEPT FOR THE QUESTION OF THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT AND EXTENT TO WHICH GENERAL PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE IN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT OR TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS. ALTHOUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS OF NECESSITY HAD BEEN SUPERFICIAL, THE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DOUBTLESS BE BASED ON WRITTEN TEXTS AND BE MORE SUBSTANTIVE. IN RESPONSE TO ECONOMIDES' QUESTION, US SIDE EXPLAINED ITS VIEWS ON FORM OF AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT IT SHOULD REFLECT REALITY THAT RELATIONSHIP REVISED, MODERNIZED AND BROUGHT UP TO DATE, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT A NEW RELATIONSHIP. THE GREEKS COMMENTED THAT CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND MORE PRECISE DEFINITIONS HAD TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE AGREEMENTS COVERING THE US-GREEK SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, THAT NOT ONLY WERE THE AGREEMENTS FAULTY BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE APPLIED. FOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, THE GOG HAD TO PRESENT SOMETHING TO REPLACE THE EXISTING MOSAIC OF AGREEMENTS. THE KEY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE TERM "HELLENIZATION" TO WHICH CERTAIN IMPORTANCE HAD TO BE ACCORDED, EVEN IF IT WAS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. KUBISCH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS03231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0746
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750412/aaaaalix.tel
Line Count: 222
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ATHENS 3160
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: NINTH MEETING OF SUBGROUP ON SOFA
TAGS: MARR, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006